REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are still pending in the patent application.

In paragraph 1 of the Official Action, claims 1-31 are now rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over a new proposed combination of Colonna et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,115,620) in view of a newly cited reference, Kim (U.S. Patent No. 6,397,078).

The rejection is respectfully traversed on the basis that neither Colonna et al., Kim nor the proposed combination thereof teaches or suggests an electronic device featuring a touch sensitive circuitry located in a movable slide. This feature is clearly recited in the middle of claim 1, i.e. "... a movable housing element being mounted movably on the housing, responsive to a contact force applied by the user, and having touch sensitive circuitry ...".

The Claimed Invention

Applicant's claimed invention provides a new and unique two-part device wherein the movable part on the main body is sliding along the main body, contains a touch sensitive circuitry and means for operating the same and means for reading the contact from the touch sensitive area, and means for detecting the position of the movable part. Additionally, applicant's claimed invention provides a device, where the movable part is a slide, and the slide has a touch sensitive circuitry that can be used to

read the contact from the user.

In the claimed invention, the touch sensitive circuitry is placed in the slide and it is used to replace the keyboard of the device. The benefit for this is that the thickness of the keyboard is reduced. Also the amount of needed wires between the slide and main body is reduced compared to a device having a conventional keyboard with mechanical buttons. Yet another benefit is that the claimed device does not need a separate keyboard and touch screen.

The Proposed Combination

It is respectfully submitted that Colonna et al. and Kim disclose very different electronic devices than the claimed invention and relate to known devices in the art that are trying to solve very different problems than the claimed invention.

Colonna et al.

For example, in Colonna et al., the first housing element 202 contains communications electronics, while the movable housing element 204 does not. The first housing element 202 provides a communication signal based on a force position signal indicative of the position of contact on the keypad 206 of the first housing element 202, not the movable housing element 204. In other words, Colonna et al.' movable housing element 204 does not contain touch sensitive circuitry for providing a force

position signal, as claimed herein.

In addition, the problem aimed at solving by Colonna et al. is completely different from that of the claimed invention. Colonna et al. is solving the problem of altering the volume of the speaker in the communications device according to the distance from the user's ear. This solution is achieved by sensing the mode of the device from the position of the movable housing element, and adjusting the volume to be louder if the device is in the hands-free mode and softer if the device is in the private mode. There is no hint, mention or suggestion that the position of the contact force would be or should be sensed, as was also recognized by the reasoning in paragraph 1 of the Office Action. However, it is recognized and understood by the undersigned that the reasoning in paragraph 1 of the Office Action is merely presenting this reference to show that two-part portable communication devices are known in the art.

Kim

In comparison, Kim discloses a mobile telephone PDA device 10 having a sliding keypad 16 with control keys and buttons 22, 23, 28, as best shown in Figure 3. As described in Kim, column 2, lines 54-58, the keypad 16 is electrically connected to an electrical support member 18 (shown in Figure 4), which includes operating electronics (not shown), by contacts 19 on the rear of the keypad 16 (shown in Fig. 5) and electrical contacts (not

shown) on the front of the electrical support member 18. In Kim's mobile telephone PDA device 10 the touch sensitive is located in the main body, not in the movable slide as in the claimed invention.

The problem that Kim is solving is to provide a combination of mobile phone and a personal digital assistant (PDA). For this purpose, Kim presents an arrangement where a touch sensitive display is attached to a mobile phone. The main reason for Kim's choice to place the touch sensitive area at the main body is that it is attached to the display of the device. As discussed above, in the claimed invention the touch sensitive area is placed in the slide and it is used to replace the keyboard of the device, which reduces the thickness of the keyboard, reduces the amount of needed wires between the slide and main body, and eliminates the need for a separate keyboard and touch screen.

It is respectfully submitted that, for argument sake, even if one skilled in the art were even motivated to combine the teachings of Colonna et al. and Kim in the manner proposed, the result would be a combined PDA and mobile phone with touch sensitive display in the main body, a slide with a keyboard that can be slid along the main body (as in Fig. 3 in Kim application) and also raised and turned 180 degrees to show the touch sensitive display. For this reason, it is respectfully submitted that the proposed combination does not result in the claimed invention.

Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the proposed combination is not legitimate. For example, Kim is being cited to make up for the deficiency of Colonna et al. in relation to the touch sensitive circuitry. However, Kim clearly does not disclose the touch sensitive circuitry as claimed in the instant patent application as this term is known and used in the art. Instead, in Kim's mobile telephone PDA device 10, the sliding keypad 16 has control keys and buttons 22, 23, 28, as best shown in Figure 3. Kim's keypad 16 is also electrically connected to the electrical support member 18 (shown in Figure 4), which includes operating electronics (not shown), by the contacts 19 on the rear of the keypad 16 (shown in Fig. 5) and electrical contacts (not shown) on the front of the electrical support member 18. See Kim, column 2, lines 54-58. In the paragraph bridging pages 2-3 in paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the reasoning has set forth the basis for the proposed combination. However, it is respectfully submitted that none of the prior art on the record suggests why one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to modify Colonna et al.' portable communication device to adapt Kim's slidable keypad 16 in the manner proposed. In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the motivation provided in the reasoning in the second and third sentence of this paragraph appears to be merely hindsight reconstruction after the Patent Office has had the benefit of reading the instant patent application. For these reasons, the proposed combination is not

legitimate under the Patent laws.

Further, it is respectfully submitted that it is not even clear how the reasoning in paragraph 1 of the Office Action is trying to modify Colonna et al.' portable communication device to adapt Kim's slidable keypad 16 therein, or where the suggestion came from in the prior art of record to make such a combination and/or modification. For example, the reasoning in paragraph 1 of the Office Action appears to be trying to modify Colonna et al.' first housing element 2002 in Figure 2 so that keypad 206 is slidable, then adapting the appropriate electronics to couple these two components together. However, it is respectfully submitted that nothing in the prior art of record suggests why one of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated or desire to even make such a modification.

Dependent Claims 2-3

Claims 2-3 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, contain all the limitations thereof, and are deemed patentable over the proposed combination for all the reasons discussed above.

Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the reasoning in paragraph 1 of the Office Action appears to be overlooking the "touch sensitive slide" limitation recited in claim 2. It is respectfully submitted that neither Colonna et al. nor Kim suggests such a touch sensitive slide or slidably mounted arrangement.

Independent Claim 4

Claim 4 recites a communications device featuring a touch sensitive slide being mounted movably on the main body for sliding along the main body, and touch sensitive slide circuitry for providing the touch sensitive slide signal indicative of the position of the contact force in relation to at least one dimension of the touch sensitive slide.

For reasons similar to those discussed above, neither Colonna et al. nor Kim suggests a communications device featuring such a movable housing element with touch sensitive circuitry for providing a force position signal indicative of the position of a contact force thereon by a user in relation to at least one dimension of the movable housing element to a main body having a communications circuit, as recited in claim 4. Moreover, Colonna et al. and Kim disclose hingably mounted devices, not a slidably mounted device, as claimed herein.

Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the reasoning in paragraph 1 of the Office Action appears to be overlooking the "touch sensitive slide" limitation recited in claim 4. Similar to that discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that neither Colonna et al. nor Kim suggests such a touch sensitive slide or slidably mounted arrangement.

Dependent Claims 5-31

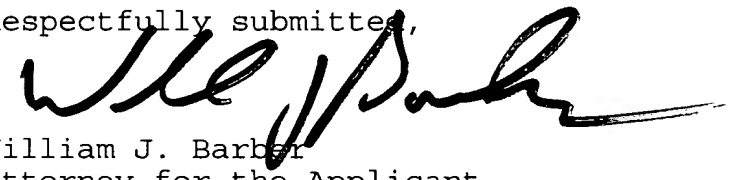
Claims 5-30 depend directly or indirectly from claim 4,

contain all the limitations thereof, and are deemed patentable over the proposed combination for all the reasons discussed above. Claim 31 recites that the touch sensitive slide has a keyboard surface and is responsive to the contact force being applied on the keyboard surface.

Conclusion

Reconsideration and early allowance of the claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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